GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:273
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2016
Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat Scheme
Kher Smt. Kirron

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is planning to launch "Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat Scheme" to promote culture and languages of all States in the country and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether an action plan has been drawn for the implementation of "Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat Scheme" and if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of initiatives taken by the Government under this scheme;

(d) whether a timeline has been set for the implementation of these initiatives and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of funds allocated/ proposed for this scheme?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.
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STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 273 TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.12.2016 REGARDING "EK BHARAT SHRESHTHA BHARAT SCHEME" ASKED BY SHRIMATI KIRRON KHER, HON'BLE MP.
(a) to (d) Yes, Madam. The 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' programme, aims to actively enhance interaction between people of diverse cultures living in different States and UTs in India, with the objective of promoting greater mutual understanding amongst them. As per the programme, each year, every State/UT would be paired with another State/UT in India for reciprocal interaction between the people. It is envisaged through this exchange, that the knowledge of the language, culture, traditions and practices of different states will lead to an enhanced understanding and bonding between one another, thereby strengthening the unity and integrity of India. The States and UTs are to embark on a mission to enhance their cultural, academic and economic ties by entering into a wide range of mutual engagements with the paired States/UTs covering the spheres of music, drama, cuisine, language, history, tourism and other forms of exchange between the people. An indicative list of activities has been drawn up and circulated to the State Governments / UT Administrations and to the key Central Ministries. The States/ UTs may choose, evolve and develop their interaction pattern based on the suggested list as per operational suitability in the course of their interactions.
(e) For the funding of this programme, States/ UTs/ can earmark or dovetail funds available under various existing programmes for conducting Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat events.
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